

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 31, 2015

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Suprenant, Henke, Shay, Haff, Pitts, O'Brien, Armstrong

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

SUPERVISORS: Lindsay, LaPointe, Fedler, Idleman, Campbell

Debra Prehoda, Clerk

Roger Wickes, County Attorney

Anthony White, Probation Director

Tony Jordan, District Attorney

Sheriff Murphy

Mike Mercure, Public Defender

Bill Cook, Public Safety Director

Dave Armando, Code Enforcement Administrator

Tim Hardy, Deputy Director Public Safety-Communications

Bruce Mason, EMS Coordinator

Public & Media

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Accept Minutes – March 3, 2015
- 3) Discussion of Weapons Policy – County Attorney
- 4) Department Reports/Requests:
 - A) EMS
 - 1) EMS Advisory Board Appointment – Robert Bell – West Fort Ann Vol. Fire Co.
 - B) Alternative Sentencing
 - 1) Program Updates
 - C) Public Defender
 - 1) Hurrell – Harring
 - a) Counsel at 1st Appearance
 - b) Quality Enhancement
 - c) Caseload Management
 - 2) Staffing Addition/Changes
 - 3) Discuss Separation of Assigned Counsel Office and Public Defenders' Office
 - 4) Discuss Office Space for Public Defenders' Office
 - 5) Indigent Legal Services Distributions #1, 2, 3, 4, 5
 - D) Public Safety
 - 1) Big Burch Hill Tower
 - 2) Miscellaneous
 - E) Sheriff
 - 1) Agisent (J2) Update
 - 2) 2014 Annual Report
- 5) Other Business
- 6) Adjournment

Chairman Suprenant called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. at the Law Enforcement Center, Fort Edward, New York.

A motion to accept the minutes of the March 3, 2015 meeting was moved by Mr. Pitts, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted.

WEAPONS POLICY PROBATION DEPARTMENT – Roger Wickes, County Attorney, stated that the changes discussed at the last meeting have been made to the Probation Department Firearms/Deadly Physical Force policy and provided to all Supervisors prior to today's meeting. He stated as with any policy, he recommends reviewing it in six months to a year. One item included and not previously discussed was language relating to field duty verses administrative duty and some exceptions were made for Probation Officers for example attending a conference or providing a report to a court. Field duty status requires wearing the entire kit. Probation Officers have to ask the Probation Director every time there is a situation appropriate not to wear the required equipment. He would like to see some range training. A motion to accept the Weapons Policy (Washington County Probation Department

Firearms/Deadly Physical Force Policy and Procedure) was moved by Mr. Haff, seconded by Mr. Shay and adopted.

EMS – Bruce Mason, EMS Coordinator, addressed the following items with the committee:

- EMS Advisory Board Appointment – A motion to appoint Robert Bell, West Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company, to the EMS Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Matthew Gould expiring 12/31/17 was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. Haff and adopted.
- EMS Volunteers – The day shifts are covered mostly by paid EMTs and the night shifts more with volunteers. The training required is very intense and the State does not recognize former military personnel certifications like a combat medic who might be potential volunteers.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – Mike Mercure, Public Defender, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Hurrel – Harring Lawsuit – NY Civil Liberties lawsuit stating the State was providing inadequate assistance of counsel. The State settled the lawsuit and Washington County was one of the five counties sued. The settlement obligates the State to do everything and pay for it and the County only has to cooperate with the State. A final order has been issued in the Hurrel – Harring lawsuit and he is meeting tomorrow with the County Administrator, County Attorney and Indigent Legal Services representatives to discuss the specifics, tailoring a plan to fit our County. The two biggest issues are counsel at 1st appearance and caseload management. The Public Defender stated he would have more information on these agenda items for next month's meeting after meeting with Indigent Legal Services.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Bill Cook, Director, addressed the following item with the committee:

- Big Burch Hill Tower – Received quotes for a structural study of the Burch Hill Towers. The tower mapping, inventory of equipment on the tower, and field visit for both towers is about \$2,785 (a crew will inspect (about \$2,000 for travel and related expenses from Ohio) and map the towers, 240' tower \$455 and 180' tower \$390) and a structural on each tower at about \$1,000 each for a total of approximately \$5,000. Vermont Tele is looking to put some equipment on the Big Burch Hill tower and from a structural they had done identified a deficiencies between the fifty and one hundred feet section that can be structurally reinforced which they are willing to pay for but are requiring that the County conduct our own structural study and determine the price for the structural reinforcement. He recommends moving forward with a structural study of both towers. He stated Vermont Tele needs to have equipment installed by August 31, 2015 to comply with grant requirements for broadband coverage in the towns of Hartford and Hebron. He did not budget for this unplanned expense. A motion to move Public Safety budget amendment for structural study of Burch Hill towers to the Finance Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. Shay and seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Discussion. Mr. Haff expressed concern with acknowledging where our public safety towers, critical infrastructure, are located for security reasons. He stated perhaps this is executive session discussion because it could endanger public safety if discussed. Mr. Cook recognized there are security issues and has a grant to address some of these issues. Mr. Henke stated this information is available on aviation charts. Mr. Haff stated with our towers being under 200 feet, they probably are not on the aviation charts. He also advised the committee of the National Programmatic Agreement, a shortcut for some of the criteria regarding collocations. The motion to move Public Safety budget amendment for structural study of Burch Hill towers to the Finance

Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. Shay, seconded by Mr. O'Brien and adopted.

SHERIFF – Sheriff Murphy presented a power point presentation of his 2014 Annual Report, available on the county website. He noted that they strengthen the security at the entrance to the facility using forfeiture funds. Traditionally, the most common age of housed inmates is between 20 and 25. The Jail kitchen provided 77,709 Office for the Aging meals for delivery. Pistol permits are down. Sheriff office calls totaled 8,092. The Youth Law Enforcement Explorer Post comprised of twelve male and female cadets received the Spurgeon Award, Highest Recognition for Individuals and Organizations Contributing Significant Leadership to the Exploring Program from the Boy Scouts of America.

Agisent (J2) Update – Records Management System - The annual reports states the following: The new Agisent (J2) Records Management System upgrade remains in process with the Dispatch and Civil Departments nearly complete. The mobile portion has been installed in patrol cars and is in the testing mode. So far the new System has shown promising capabilities far beyond the previous program. They anticipate completion for their office to be in the next month or so with other county law enforcement agencies being brought online soon after.

Naloxone (Narcan) is a prescription medicine that reverses an opioid overdose. The Road Patrol Deputies have been trained to administer Narcan and have done so on three occasions to date.

Supervisor Pitts praised the efforts of the Sheriffs Deputies in the area school systems.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

A motion to adjourn was moved by Mr. Armstrong, seconded and adopted. The meeting adjourned at 11:21 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors*